

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-15 remain pending, wherein claims 1-15 have been amended. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 1-15 have been made merely to address the claim objections raised in the Office Action, and that the claim amendments do not affect the scope of claims 1-15.

In paragraphs 1-12 of the Office Action claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 13 and 15 are objected to for minor informalities. These claims have been amended to address the alleged informalities identified in the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 15 of the Office Action claims 1-15 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of co-pending Application No. 09/943,385. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

Although Applicants respectfully traverse the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection, in order to expedite issuance of the present application, enclosed please find a Terminal Disclaimer. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

All outstanding objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056205.50339C1).

Respectfully submitted,

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